

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 INRE-00 NSCE-00 IO-12 SSO-00 CCO-00 RSR-01 /100 W
----- 125576

O 220231 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1935

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8920

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 113,
MAY 21, 1973

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL DANANG 21 MAY 73 REPEATED
TO YOU FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 565

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 113,
MAY 21, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE THREE- DAY REPORTING
PERIOD DROPPED FROM 19 TO 12 AND THEN TO 10. THE INTENSITY IN
THE AREA SOUTHWEST OF HUE WHICH HAD BEEN NOTED IN THE PREVIOUS
SEVERAL DAYS CONTINUED THE FIRST DAY OF THE REPORTING PERIOD;
HOWEVER, BY THE THIRD DAY, ACTIVITY WAS SPORADIC THROUGHOUT THE
REGION, AND EVEN THE FIRST DIVISION AO RECEIVED ONLY LIGHT
SHELLING AND NO GROUND ATTACKS. FOLLOWING ARE STATISTICS FOR
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THE REPORTING PERIOD ACCORDING TO THE DAY THEY ARE REPORTED AT THE I CORPS MORNING BRIEFING.

MAY 19:

NINETEEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED INCLUDING TWO GROUND ATTACKS AND 17 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) WITH 79 ARTILLERY ROUNDS AND 575 MORTAR ROUNDS. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT OCCURRED SOUTHWEST OF HUE. THE FIRST BATTALION, 54 TH REGIMENT, RECEIVED THREE ABFS WITH 150 MORTAR ROUNDS. SEVENTY ROUNDS OJSPJHWUBMM ARTILLERY FIRE WERE RECEIVED SOUTHWEST OF BASTOGNE. (NOTE: VOA ERRONEOUSLY IDENTIFIED THE ARTILLERY AS 130 MM.) REGION- WIDE, FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE: 9 KIA, 21 WIA; ENEMY 14 KIA, 1 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 1,926 ROUNDS; 1,257 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 669 SOUTH.

MAY 20:

TWELVE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED INCLUDING ONE GROUND ATTACK AND 10 ABFS TOTTALLING 357 MORTAR ROUNDS. ACTIVITY WAS REDUCED SOMEWHAT SOUTHWEST OF HUE. REGION- WIDE, CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 2 KIA, 2 MIA, 24 WIA; ENEMY 10 KIA, 1 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 1,641 ROUNDS; 990 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 651 SOUTH.

MAY 21:

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS DROPPED TO 10, INCLUDING 6 ABFS WITH 87 MORTAR ROUNDS AND 4 INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM. CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 2 KIA, 26 WIA; ENEMY 30 KIA, 8 CAPTURED, 1 RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,556 ROUNDS; 868 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 688 SOUTH.

2. ENEMY ACTIVITY:

ARVN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE, PRG CADRE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO EXPECT ICCS MOVEMENT WITHIN THE AREA BY HELICOPTER TO DISCUSS BOUNDARIES OF PRG AND GVN CONTROLLED TERRITORY. UNITS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BE CAREFUL TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH THESE HELICOPTERS. (COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS REPORT IS OF INTEREST IN VIEW OF CAN THO 333, MAY 19.
END COMMENT.)

3. RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES:

QUANG NGAI POLOFF REPORTS THAT COLONEL HA MAI VIET, PROVINCE CHIEF QUANG NGAI, PARDONED 72 VC/ VCI CIVILIAN DETAINEES ON

BUDDHA' S BIRTHDAY LAST WEEK. THE PRISONERS WERE RELEASED
FROM THE DETENTION CENTER WITHOUT CEREMONY BY THE GVN.

4. SIGN OF THE TIMES?

ALTHOUGH THE TWO LOCATIONS WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF HUE CONTINUE
TO SUFFER SIGNIFICANT ENEMY MILITARY ACTIVITY, AND WE DO NOT
MEAN TO SUGGEST THE WAR IS OVER, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT THE
SINGLE EVENT PREOCCUPYING THE ATTENTION OF MUCH OF HUE OVER
THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS HAD BEEN A CENTRAL VIETNAM REGIONAL
TENNIS TOURNAMENT. A SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD BOY FROM PHAN THIET
STOLE THE SHOW AND WON THE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP. THE DALAT
TEAM COULDN' T STAND THE SEA LEVEL ALTITUDE OR THE CENTRAL
VIETNAM DRY SEASON HEAT AND COLLAPSED. THERE WAS REPRESENTATION
OF SOME SORT FROM VIRTUALLY EVERY PROVINCE IN MRS I AND II.
GENERAL LAM QUANG THI, DEPUTY CG I CORPS, AND QUITE A TENNIS
PLAYER HIMSELF, ACTED AS PATRON AND PLAYED AN EXHIBITION MATCH.
GENERAL THI' S PARTICIPATION ILLUSTRATES A SIGNIFICANT CO-
OPERATION BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY IN WHAT WAS ESSENTIALLY
A PEACE- TIME ENDEAVOR. AN QUANG' S ATTITUDE (OR THAT OF THE
DEMOCRACY PARTY) TOWARDS THE TOURNAMENT IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS
TIME.

BROWN
UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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